

## SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

# ON THE STREETS AT XMAS

## Charities flag up number of rough sleepers in borough

by ROSS LOGAN

ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

At least 26 individuals or families will be spending this Christmas classed as homeless in Kingston, according to new official figures.

But charities in the borough say statistics are only the tip of the iceberg in a growing problem for the town.

The latest Government figures show that between June and September Kingston Council had accepted 26 households – including single persons, couples and families – as homeless and in priority need.

A further 470 households were in temporary accommodation by September 30.

But outreach worker and former rough-sleeper Dan Wheeler, from Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH), said the figures did not reflect the true picture.

He said: "The last count I did in November was 37 rough sleepers, and that changes week by week."

"In Kingston I would say there will always be at least 20 to 30 people sleeping rough at any given time."

Mr Wheeler said most of Kingston's homeless were men, although this year women with children had come seeking help.

There had also been an increase in the number of eastern European people sleeping on the streets.

Recently one rough sleeper was hospitalised with hypothermia and trench foot, while others could die out in the cold, according to Mr Wheeler.

He said: "It sounds silly when you're in such a wealthy borough like Kingston to have death on your doorstep, but people are dying."

KCAH is currently running the mobile winter night shelter, which provides a

hot meal, a bed and breakfast for up to 12 people a night, in different venues across the borough including a new shelter at St Peter's Church.

Project manager Rachel Makin said the shelters was full every night this year, and said: "[Homelessness] is definitely increasing. This year we've seen a rise in the number of people who have been on the streets for longer."

"It is harder to house these people as their lives tend to be more chaotic and they have alcohol problems."

"What we need is more support to help manage these people, so they get to a point where they can sustain accommodation by themselves."

Last week, Christopher Turner, 51, was convicted of fraud after begging outside HSBC in Surbiton as a homeless person despite having a council house in King Charles Road.

Mr Wheeler said it was down to individuals whether they gave money to homeless people.

He said: "I would discourage giving cash to homeless people, as it will only sustain them for the day. By giving to charity, we can put the money to help them with housing, getting into programmes and getting off the streets."

You can donate to Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness on 020 8255 7400 or via the Love Kingston campaign, which supports five charities offering pathways out of poverty for people in the borough.

Call Love Kingston's Elaine Miller on 020 8255 3335, email [elaine@londoncf.org.uk](mailto:elaine@londoncf.org.uk) or visit [love-kingston.org.uk](http://love-kingston.org.uk).



### Support our Xmas guide dog appeal

□ Text FIRSTXMAS to 70020 or visit [guidedogs.org.uk/](http://guidedogs.org.uk/) first christmas to donate £3. Cheques payable to: "Guide Dogs" should be sent to: Kingston Guardian, 10th Floor, Quadrant House, the Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS.

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'Making a delivery': The van drives down the Greenway



Caught: The driver of the van

# Driver caught in the act on the Greenway

by JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

A brazen driver has been caught on camera driving a white van down the middle of Tolworth's new Greenway.

Rob Lee, an IT director and former councillor who lives in Tolworth Broadway, caught the driver on the barrierless Greenway, designed for pedestrians and cyclists to share.

In the video, the driver of the Enterprise rental van is parked on the newly-completed green path.

When challenged by the zealous ex-councillor, the driver said: "I'm a delivery driver, mate."

Mr Lee said: "You have no right to drive on here."

"You're being recorded. I'm

handing it over to the police."

The driver said: "What are the police going to do?"

Mr Lee added: "Just you wait and see, sunshine. We paid for this. You can't drive on it."

As the van drove away Mr Lee ran after it shouting: "He'll pay!"

He complained to the police on the same day.

Mr Lee said: "All I did was flick my phone on and record it."

"We as a community can tackle those idiots."

"The Greenway is a great success, a bit like the fountain in the

market place.

"It's our area - we have to take responsibility for it."

Tolworth and Hook Rise Councillor Vicki Harris said: "Good on him for actually facing up to the guy."

"There are parts of the Greenway that have trees planted in it - clearly it is not a parking area."

A Kingston police spokeswoman said today that criminal proceedings were not under way.

The Highway Code, section 145, says: "You must not drive on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway except to gain lawful access to property, or in the case of an emergency."

## Going Dutch: Bid for cycling revolution

Kingston Council has entered its formal bid for funding to turn the borough into a "mini-Holland" cycling haven.

The plans, submitted to the Mayor of London's Outer London Cycling Fund, also include proposals for a cycling "superskyway" over the Thames next to Kingston Bridge, a Dutch-style roundabout at the Fountain roundabout in New Malden and converting the taxi rank outside Surbiton station into a new plaza for cyclists and pedestrians.

The scheme has been short-



View of the future? Safer cycling routes near Kingston station

listed by the Mayor for a share of a £100m pot aimed at making cycling more appealing for residents living

in outer London boroughs.

A decision on the successful bids is expected to be announced next month.

## Barrister named as Conservative candidate

A barrister who has worked on the Leveson Inquiry and the inquest of gunman Raoul Moat has been named as the Conservative party's parliamentary candidate for Kingston at the 2015 general election.

James Berry will challenge Edward Davey for his Kingston and Surbiton seat next year, hoping to bring an end to Liberal Democrat's 17-year parliamentary career.

The 30-year-old, who lives with his wife in Victoria, central London, said the fact he did not live in

the constituency should not put off potential voters.

Mr Berry said: "I've been to Kingston many times, but I'm not claiming to be a local candidate."

"There's lots of candidates being picked who aren't from the area they're standing in, but I think it's a question of being able to listen to residents and stand up for them."

"I've spoken to a lot of Kingston Conservative members and I have seen in your own paper there is going to be 1,000 extra school places needed and that's certainly

a massive concern to me.

"I also want to make sure Kingston and Surbiton is a clean and safe place to live. It normally is safe, but there are crime hotspots like in Kingston town centre and we can't be fooled by the statistics that say otherwise."

Jim White, deputy chairman of Kingston and Surbiton Conservative Association, said: "James is reasonably young, but he is incredibly intelligent, hard working and very engaging when you talk to him."

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# Son claimed dead mum's winter benefits for years

A man has admitted claiming £66,000 worth of his dead mother's benefits, including her winter fuel allowance and Christmas bonus for seven years.

New Malden man Brian Dixon, 65, managed to pull off the deceit when he was given power of attorney over his late father and mother's joint bank account that already contained £55,000.

The Dukes Avenue resident was also benefit appointee for his mother who he had moved into

by NAZIA DEWJI

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nearby £3,500-a-month Lynton Hall Nursing Home, following the death of his father in 1997.

But when Joanna Dixon died on February 5, 2004, he began claiming her attendance allowance, winter fuel payments, Christmas bonuses and even her state pension and failed to tell the Department for Work and Pensions about her death.

Dixon who has a silver Jaguar and a light blue VW Beetle, was dressed in a smart

grey suit and coat when he appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Tuesday last week to admit four counts of dishonesty.

Prosecutor Stanley Amah said: "The offences began in 2004 and they have run on until 2011 until they were discovered by the Department for Work and Pensions. The financial gain in this case is at £66,000."

An investigator visited Dixon's home in April 2012 and he was interviewed the following year in May when he admitted the crimes.

He told prosecutors he carried out the benefit fraud following financial difficulties after losing a job, a death of a close friend and the breakdown of his marriage.

Dixon told the Kingston Guardian: "I was suffering from depression, I had been diagnosed with a serious illness and my mother had just died a very unpleasant death."

"I was faced with very substantial debts and was in danger of losing my home. Rather than seeing my children put out on the streets I took the only option, as I saw it at the time, which was to use the money."

"This action has meant that I have lost my career, my home, my marriage and my self-respect; to make matters worse I have just been diagnosed with cancer."

"I would also like to add that all of the money is being paid back to the Department for Work and Pensions."

A neighbour said Dixon lived in a happy family of four. She said: "They are not very kind. They are always complaining."

"I am surprised about this because a while ago their car got egged and they called the police about it."

Dixon and two of his siblings were each given £10,000 from his father's will and he also benefited from selling their family home in Seaford for £95,000.

Fraud investigator Ann Goslyn said: "Brian Dixon lived a lie for nearly eight years, profiteering from his mother's death while defrauding the taxpayer of tens of thousands of pounds."

Dixon will appear at Kingston Crown Court at a later date to be sentenced.

[Comment on this story at kingstonguardian.co.uk](#)

**Deceit: The house in Dukes Avenue**

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# Boris bike trio go hire and higher to hit peak

Three friends who took a Boris bike to scale a Tour de France landmark in a day returned it with just 22 seconds to spare.

Cyclists Ian Laurie, Matthew Winstone, and Robert Holden hired a bike from New Kent Road in Southwark at 3.58am on October 26. They paid the £2 daily hire charge and, with the bike in the back of a van, drove to Mont Ventoux – the most daunting peak on the Tour de France course.

The bike was returned at 3.57am the next day, just in time to avoid the £150 Transport for London fee for going over the 24-hour limit.

They have now published a self-made documentary about the feat.

Film-maker Ian Laurie, from Kingston, said: “The only real thing we could do was see if we got the fine or not.

“I never for one second thought that we would be that close.

“We were the last vehicle that was allowed on the Euro Tunnel going back. Then it was 10 minutes late.”

by JON SHARMAN

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The trio had to contend with motorway traffic, unfamiliar roads, and of course the gruelling 6,000ft climb up Mont Ventoux.

Mr Holden, a geologist, wrestled the 23kg bike up the mountain, dubbed “a god of evil” by French philosopher Roland Barthes, in just under three hours.

He said: “It was far more painful than I had anticipated. I wanted to keep up my side of the bargain, so I suppose that’s what spurred me on. If I went back on a Boris bike I don’t think mentally I could do it again.

“If I went back on a road bike with the right gears, which I plan on doing next year, then I would give it a go.”

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said the feat had “shown our Gallic cousins just how sturdy our city’s hire bikes are”.

The friends also beat their goal of raising £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, gaining more than £6,000 in donations.



Home again: Matthew Winstone, Ian Laurie and Robert Holden after their challenge

KT18706



Rejected: The proposed development

## Council dumps plans for new arts quarter and plaza

Plans from the company that owns the Bentalls store for a new arts quarter and residential plaza in the town centre were blocked by councillors.

The proposed Thames Side Wharf development, including 97 apartments, was rejected at a development control committee meeting.

Mark Fenwick, chairman of Fenwick, the company behind the plans, said: “I am obviously disappointed with the decision as I have taken great personal interest in the development of this site, which has been, for many years, an eyesore in the centre of Kingston.”

Councillor Rachel Reid, who voted against the rejection motion, said: “All of us had a big issue with the fact that the money being secured from them for affordable housing was only £266,000.

“As for the scheme itself, I personally didn’t have a problem with it as I think it is an area in need of development and I liked the idea of the plaza.”

A spokesman for Bentalls said: “The company will now reflect on whether this is the right time to bring this development forward.”

Committee chairman Coun Vicki Harris said: “It does need something doing to it, but it has to be right.

“The affordable housing they were proposing was absolutely laughable.”

Marilyn Mason, of Lower Ham Road, is a member of Canbury Area Residents’ Association.

She said: “I did like the public square that they had got planned.

“Our concern will be now about what fills that space. It is just a car park and scruffy bit of land.”

  
**Kingston**  
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Meeting of the Kingston CCG Governing Body  
7th December 2014 (1.00pm-3.00pm)  
Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall, Kingston KT1 1EU

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

A copy of the agenda is on our website and available on request. Supporting papers will be published on Thursday, 2nd January 2014.

Governing Body members will be available for 10 minutes before the start to speak with members of the public.

We also welcome questions. Please send these clearly marked “*Question for the Governing Body*” by 6th January, to the Business Manager, Kingston CCG, Guildhall 1, High Street, Kingston KT1 1EU or email to: [communications@kingstonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@kingstonccg.nhs.uk)

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If you fancy something a bit different to the traditional pantomime then get yourself down to the Rose Theatre in Kingston.

It is becoming a well-established tradition in Kingston to defy the usual clichés.

Prepare to be transported to 1930s Spain, for a story about a circus, an orphan and a fearsome gorilla named Gor.

The show includes African acrobats and a number of circus performers to keep the audience entertained. The plot follows orphan Sunny who ran away from home to join the circus, where he meets Chloe and it is a case of love at first sight. But while working at the circus, Sunny makes an even bigger discovery in the shape of Gor

the snow gorilla, voiced by Brian Blessed.

There is a blend of circus, pantomime and music, which should keep those of all ages on the edge of their seats this Christmas.

● **The Snow Gorilla; Rose Theatre, High Street, Kingston; until January 5, various times; £9-£28; rosetheatrekingston.org, 08444 821556.**



**KINGSTON: THE SNOW GORILLA**



## There's still time to catch one of the region's pantos. ANDREW BLOSS rounds up the best of the action HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS!

A classic Arabian nights tale is on at the New Wimbledon Theatre.

Join celebrities including comic Jo Brand for a fun filled performance.

Brand, who plays the Genie of the Ring, is joined by Stars in their Eyes presenter Matthew Kelly and Britain's Got Talent 2009's finalists, Flawless dance group, as they retell the tale of Aladdin.

Before the panto started its run, Brand said: "I've never done panto before and as stand-up comedy is fairly solitary I'm looking forward to being with a big group."

● **Aladdin; 93 the Broadway, Wimbledon; until January 12; £10-29.50; atgtickets.com or call 020 8545 7900.**



**WIMBLEDON: ALADDIN**



**EPSOM:  
PETER PAN**

Epsom Playhouse is one of a number of theatres taking audiences on a trip to Neverland.

Martin Clark is starring in the theatre's production as Peter Pan.

Clark is a well-known figure on children's TV and also toured the country for adaptations of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

He says: "This role has to be the best in any pantomime. I can be cheeky, have fun flying around and be the kids' best friend. I can't wait to get my harness on and fly all around Epsom Playhouse."

● **Peter Pan; Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom; until January 5; £11-£18.50; epsomplayhouse.co.uk, 01372 742555.**



**CROYDON: PETER PAN**

In Croydon, Fairfield Halls' pantomimes are without doubt the most popular shows of the year.

The theatre is putting on Peter Pan with EastEnders star Steve McFadden staying true to form and playing the evil Captain Hook. Popular dame Quinn

Patrick plays Mrs Smee and rising star Liz Carter takes on the role of Wendy.

With gags aplenty and a host of songs old and new, you certainly would not go wrong in taking the family to see the show as a post-Christmas treat.

● **Peter Pan; Fairfield**

**Halls, Park Lane, Croydon; until January 5, various times; £13 to £28, family ticket £87; www.fairfield.co.uk, 020 8688 9291.**



**RICHMOND:  
PETER PAN**

To make it a hat-trick of Peter Pan pantomimes you can also see the popular tale at the Richmond Theatre.

Henry Winkler, pictured above, best known for playing the super-cool Fonz in Happy Days, has perfected the role of being super-bad as Captain Hook.

Winkler calls playing Captain Hook "a great diet plan", due to the energy he has to expel playing the part.

● **Peter Pan; Richmond Theatre, the Green, Richmond; until January 12, 1.30pm to 7pm; £11.90 to £40.40; atgtickets.com.**





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# Epsom Coaches

# Home to Holiday

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We have a great selection of Spring breaks. Other holidays in the UK and Europe available.



### Snowdrops at Hodsock Priory Friday 21 February

See beautiful snowdrops at Hodsock Priory, the first sign of Spring



### Cornwall in Springtime Sunday 8 March

A great new break staying at a popular welcoming hotel with entertainment every night



### Malvern Hills, Wye Valley and Cotswolds Sunday 30 March

Discovering the beautiful Malvern Hills and Cotswolds with a trip on the River Wye.

## Easter Breaks

Enjoy one of our exciting Easter Breaks. There are five different destinations to choose from.



### Cheshire Thursday 17 April

Visit Tatton Park, Port Sunlight and Liverpool's Albert Dock. Stay in a highly rated 4 star hotel.



### Derbyshire Thursday 17 April

Visit magnificent Chatsworth and enjoy a cruise on the Upper Peak Forest Canal. Stay in an excellent 4 star hotel.



### Dutch Bulbfields Friday 18 April

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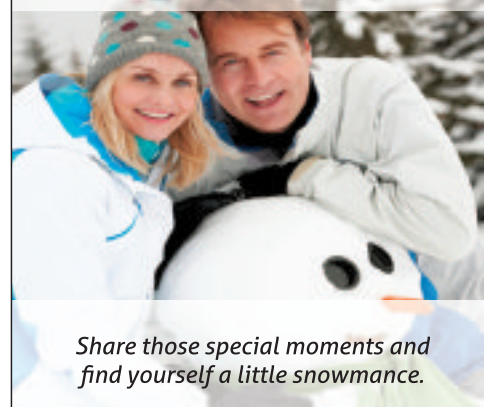
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## Obituary Notice

**GEOFF RIXON**  
Aged 84 years  
Died peacefully on 18th December 2013. Much loved Husband, Dad and Grandfather who will be greatly missed. Funeral to take place at St Mary's Church, East Molesey on Monday, 30th December at 2.00pm then committal at Kingston Crematorium at 3.00pm. Flowers or donations to The British Heart Foundation may be sent to Lodge Brothers, East Molesey  
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September: Epsom CC completed a remarkable season in Surrey Championship Division Three with victory over Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcottians. They went up as unbeaten champions – not dropping a single point all season, and picking up every bonus point available

## THE SPORTS REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2013



January: Sutton & Epsom were held to a 15-15 draw at bottom club Camberley as they fought to get out London Division Two South West. But it would all end happily as skipper Matt Whitaker, pictured, and his teammates were promoted via the play-offs

Picture: David Whittam



February: The young runners of Herne Hill Harriers began a year of dominating the cross-country scene when 12-year-old Katy-Ann McDonald, pictured, beat the flu to win gold at the U15s Surrey Schools' Cross-Country Championship

SP72882



March: Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers proved they were no slouches in running shoes by winning all three age groups in the Downs League. Neil Wellard, pictured, starred in the U15s win, while there were triumphs for the U11s and the U13s

SP73251



December: There was welcome news as Ross Hutchins returned to the tennis court after a year-long battle – and ultimate victory – against cancer

November: Croydon man Michael Carberry opened the batting for England with Alistair Cook in the opening Ashes Test – he went on to hit 40 over the two innings



October: Ian Holloway's reign as Crystal Palace manager ended after one win in eight Premier League games. A stressed Holloway, above, left by mutual consent

August: After Ollie Smith stepped down as head coach, Esher called on former Scottish international Craig Chalmers, below, ahead of the National League One season



July: Croydon Harrier James Dasaolu, below, went sub 10 seconds over 100m at the British trials for the World Championships. Dasaolu became the second fastest Brit, behind Linford Christie, clocking 9.91secs



May: The football season would end in dramatic fashion for both AFC Wimbledon and Crystal Palace. The Dons needed all the points off Fleetwood Town on the last day of the season to stay in the Football League, which they did thanks to Jack Midson's, left, penalty. Meanwhile, Ian Holloway guided Palace to the Championship play-off final at Wembley, where Kevin Phillips' penalty sent them to the Premier League, right



June: Laura Robson, above, hinted at what could be by reaching the fourth round of the Wimbledon Championships. In the year a Brit would win the men's title for the first time in 77 years, the women continue to wait after Robson lost to Kaia Kanepi

## 2013 – the year of thin lines

by TIM ASHTON

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The thin line between sporting success and failure was a vein that ran through a year jam-packed with high-end action.

In football, AFC Wimbledon's League Two survival rested on a last-gasp, final day victory, and Crystal Palace won promotion to the Premier League via a solitary

spot kick at Wembley.

But Palace boss Ian Holloway paid the price for failure in the top flight, and was replaced with Tony Pulis, pictured.

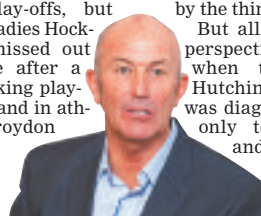
Sutton & Epsom RFC returned to London Division

One South via the lottery of the play-offs, but

Surbiton Ladies Hockey Club missed out on Europe after a heart-breaking play-off defeat, and in athletics, Croydon Harriers' James Dasaolu

broke the 10-second barrier by the thinnest of margins.

But all this was put into perspective in January when tennis star Ross Hutchins announced he was diagnosed with cancer, only to win his battle and be back out on the courts come December.



May: Fans of both Walton Casuals, above, and Carshalton Athletic, suffered relegation, but there was to be a reprieve for both sides and reinstatement during the summer. However, the Robins could not keep hold of leading scorer Nathan Pinney, right



April: It was a month of ups and downs as Surbiton Ladies Hockey Club, left, missed out on a place in Europe after finishing fourth in the WHL Premier Division play-offs, while, right, Weybridge rower and Oxford president Alex Davidson, centre, got one over his Cambridge rivals by winning the 159th boat race

Pictures: Tim Ashton/Getty Images



The Guardian sports desk wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy new year